



For Immediate Release

Date: June 24, 2016 9:00 AM

Sherpa Fire

Location: West of Goleta, Santa Barbara County, Los Padres National Forest.

Acres Burned: 7,474

Containment: 93%

Fire Started: June 15, 2016

Cause: Under investigation

Total personnel assigned to the fire: 772

Structures Threatened: 270

Structures Destroyed: 1

Injuries: 9

Summary

The Sherpa Fire that started on June 15th has been monitored for the past few days by fire personnel. There has been minimal activity and no further growth to the fire that remains around 7,474 acres.

Through the evening smoldering areas within the fire's perimeter were identified and extinguished during patrolling operations. No other significant activity has happened for the last several days. Firefighters continue to secure the perimeter line, monitor the area to ensure the fire is confined and perform suppression repair.

Completed fire line surrounds 93% of the fire. The remaining uncontained fire line in the northeast corner will remain open due to extremely steep and inaccessible terrain. No fire activity has been found in this section. Aerial retardant has been used and crews will carefully monitor. Helicopters remain available to drop water as needed to support the crews.

A Red Flag Warning remains in effect through Saturday at 10 a.m. Strong winds are predicted during the evening and overnight hours along the Santa Ynez mountain range. Relative humidity is expected to drop between 8-15% with little recovery at night in windy areas.

A Red Flag Warning means that critical fire weather conditions are either occurring now or will shortly. A combination of strong winds, low relative humidity and warm temperatures have the potential to create extreme fire behavior.

Evacuations: While the evacuation orders were lifted for the majority of the fire area, some restrictions and closures remain. Changes to current Mandatory Evacuation and Evacuation Warning can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov>

Refugio State Beach will reopen to the public on Saturday, June 25. El Capitan State Beach will remain closed at least through July 15.

A total of 772 people remain assigned to this incident, including 24 crews, 25 engines, 9 water tenders, and 3 helicopters. Demobilization of excess resources will continue throughout the day. Approximately 300 personnel are expected to continue through the weekend.

A transition to a Unified Command Type 3 organization occurred today at 6 a.m. between USDA Forest Service, CAL FIRE, and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department. The Incident Command Post will move to the Los Padres NF, Supervisor's Office, 6750 Navigator Way, Suite 150 in Goleta.

For current fire information, Santa Barbara County residents can call 211, contact the Sherpa Fire Information Line at (805) 968-6640, or visit Santa Barbara County online at countyofsb.org.